

BOOK REVIEWS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL. A Volume for the Health Officer and Public Health Nurse. By Gaylord W. Anderson, A.B., M.D., Ph.D., May Professor and Director, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, and Margaret G. Arnstein, R.N., M.A., M.P.H., Assistant to the Chief, Division of Nursing, United States Public Health Service. Second Edition. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1948. \$5.00.

The authors place emphasis on the factors related to the control of disease rather than to the diagnosis and treatment of the individual case. Therefore, the health worker or the practicing physician interested in epidemiology will find the work of particular value.

The first part is a discussion of the infectious processes and the factors related to the spread of disease. The section on control measures includes the standard procedures of isolation and environmental sanitation and a concise up-to-date review of the principles of immunization. The whys and hows of effective epidemiological investigation will be found of interest.

Part Two deals with the specific infectious diseases, principal consideration being given to those which are of primary importance and for which something can be done. The discussion of each disease or group is concluded by recommended action by the health officer and his staff.

The place of the newer rodenticides, ANTU and 1080, and insecticide, DDT, is discussed in relation to insect-borne infections.

The authors have interestingly and authoritatively presented the newer concepts of the control of communicable disease.

THE Rh FACTOR. In the Clinic and the Laboratory. Joseph M. Hill, M.D., and William Dameshek, M.D., Editors. Grune and Stratton, New York. \$4.25.

This volume, a special issue of *Blood, the Journal of Hematology*, consists of a collection of 13 papers on the Rh factor. The volume ought to be considered an issue of the *Journal* because of the nature of the papers. The contributions are of value to the geneticist, the immunologist, persons interested in applied clinical laboratory procedures, the hematologist interested in the mechanisms of hemolysis and transfusion reactions, those working in the field of iso-immunization, the pediatrician, the obstetrician, the clinician and the therapist. The subject matter of the volume may be roughly divided into two general categories, one dealing with the more theoretical and academic aspects of the problem, and the other dealing with the more practical phases of the problem which require immediate action and are of importance to the clinician.

In the first group is to be found a short historical resume by Levine, one of the earliest contributors on the subject of the Rh factor. R. R. Race reviews the nomenclature of the British workers who use the Fisher scheme of multiple allelic arrangements of the genetic factors. Dameshek contributes a review of his researches on the mechanism of hemolysis and discusses the physiologic principles of red cell destruction, the chemical and physical factors of erythro-stasis, and the functions of the spleen in hemolysis. The interrelationship between the Rh system and the A B O system in hemolytic disease of the newborn is reported by Witebsky, who gives an instance of the production of an anti-A antibody of the blocking type. One of the outstanding papers of this section is that of Hill, Haberman and Jones, who discuss hemolytic Rh immune globulins, and present convincing evidence of a third order of antibodies, which they have designated "cryptagglutinoids."

The papers of the second group deal with the more practical considerations of the subject. A paper of much practical value to the clinician, on the management of acute renal insufficiency due to incompatible transfusions, is given by Muirhead, Haley, Habermann and Hill. Davidsohn contributes a provocative paper on the relationship between the character and intensity of the Rh antibodies in the mother and the resultant variety of hemolytic disease in the newborn. The significances of these factors are correlated in terms of survival of the afflicted. A companion article by Bruce Chown presents some deviations from the usual pattern of Rh sensitization. The material he presents was obtained from an isolated controlled population. Orozco discusses the rôle of hetero-specific immunization to the A and B factors and its relationship to the etiology of erythroblastosis. The highly technical details of the treatment of hemolytic disease of the newborn by substitution or exsanguination transfusion are given from the point of view of the clinician by Wallerstein.

In general, the volume consists of worthy contributions to the subject of Rh iso-immunization. It outlines some problems for future consideration. Its true nature is evident by virtue of its being a volume of assembled papers delivered at the International Hematology and Rh Conference held in Dallas, Texas, in November, 1946.

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY. F. R. Winton, M.D., D.Sc., Professor of Pharmacology, University College, London, and L. E. Bayliss, Ph.D., Reader in Physiology, University College, London. Third Edition with 248 Illustrations. The Blakiston Company.

The authors of this book are well known English medical scientists, who have contributed knowledge to both animal and human physiology over many years of research. The point of view is distinctly one of human physiology and the book is rich in illustrations from researches on human functions, but the authors also draw freely upon results of experiments on laboratory animals for depicting more exact and analytical studies for which the human subject is not suitable. There are 15 chapters with the traditional classification of functions more or less according to anatomical systems. There is an opening chapter entitled Physiological Activity in which are discussed the principles of muscular exercise, physiological equilibria and fatigue. Other chapters are The Circulation, The Blood and Other Body Fluids, Respiration, Digestion, etc.

It is unfortunate that the able discussion of metabolism and nutrition in chapter 6 is so far removed from the discussion of the ductless glands in chapter 15. Of the 22 pages of chapter 13 on the autonomic nervous system, 12 are devoted to the chemical transmission of the nervous impulse.

The style is lucid and interesting and the selection of subject matter has been made with the view to making the book useful to the medical practitioner. The authors have done well to include so much information in 564 pages of text matter. There are 28 pages of index. The type is clear and the paper of good quality.

TREATMENT IN GENERAL PRACTICE. By Harry Beckman, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sixth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. \$11.50.

Revised on an average of once every three years, this book is one of the relatively few medical works of this size written by a single author. It would of course be expected that specialists in each of the included fields might readily find fault with therapeutic details. The inexperienced medical

student, on the other hand, will often find it difficult to decide between more than one suggested method of treatment in a certain situation; from time to time he might even lose sight of the main principle. Perhaps the greatest weakness of this sort of book is that, in general, it must discuss treatment of disease: the physician treats patients.

These criticisms must not be taken too seriously. The man in general practice, to whom the book is addressed, will find much of value and interest within it. All readers will appreciate the author's easy style and light touch. The present edition of 1129 pages contains only 230 more than the first edition published 18 years ago, an astounding feat in view of the great advances since then; the most modern therapy is incorporated. The book belongs in every physician's library.

OPERATIVE GYNECOLOGY. By Harry Sturgeon Crossen, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Clinical Gynecology, Washington University School of Medicine; and Robert James Crossen, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Gynecology and Obstetrics, Washington University School of Medicine. Sixth Edition—entirely revised and reset. Thirteen hundred thirty-four illustrations including thirty in color. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1947. \$15.00.

The continued popularity of this well-known treatise on operative gynecology is demonstrated amply by the demand for a new edition, the sixth in 63 years. The present edition has been broadened mainly by the inclusion of newer aspects of the technical treatment of the various forms of genital cancer, sterility, dysmenorrhea and uterine fibroids. The book is full of useful hints in minor surgical procedures. Major technical problems are described in minute detail. In fact, there is such an abundance of technical descriptions that the less experienced may find it bewildering to decide on what method to use. This is a common fault of many technical texts, largely due to the reluctance of authors to eliminate outdated material. Crossen's treatise has grown to a thousand pages in six editions, yet its usefulness could have been enhanced by the reduction in text and the elimination of archaic illustrations. Many of the latter appeared in the first edition but by now print so poorly that they serve no graphic purpose as compared to the excellent and clear illustrations and diagrams more recently added. However, there is such abundance of graphic depiction of material and technical methods that these minor shortcomings in visual aid do not detract from the general excellence of the treatise.

The general scope of Crossen's *Operative Gynecology* is so well known that a detailed description hardly would be justified. It is a most useful book for any physician engaged in the treatment of women but particularly valuable for those practicing abdominal and pelvic surgery. H. L. Brooks, Jr., has discussed the intestinal tract in relation to gynecologic surgery in sufficient detail in the 17th chapter to enhance the value of this text.

NEUROANATOMY. By Fred A. Mettler, A.M., M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. With 357 illustrations including 33 in color. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1948. \$10.00.

The second edition of this standard textbook of neuroanatomy preserves all the merits of its predecessor, while bringing the work up to date and amplifying the already thorough treatment of the vascular architecture of the nervous system. The thoroughgoing treatment of the thalamic nuclei is particularly welcome in this time of great interest in the therapeutic implications of the fronto-thalamic connections.

Approximately the first half of the book is devoted to a systematic consideration of the gross anatomy of the spinal cord and brain. The structures are considered in the light of their physiological as well as their anatomical relationships. Diagrams of the fiber tracts in their functional relationships are numerous and complete; as a matter of fact their very

completeness is something of an obstacle to the beginning student. One could never accuse the author of over-simplification in the interest of clarity.

The remainder of the volume presents the histological anatomy of the cord and brain in an exhaustive manner, again correlating structure with function.

The illustrations, both gross and microscopic, are really superb, and represent an untold amount of labor. In all, as a reference work on neuroanatomy the book can be unreservedly commended.

THE BIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION OF THE VITAMINS. By Katherine H. Coward, D.Sc., Reader in Biochemistry, University of London, Head of the Nutrition Department, Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Second Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1947.

The second edition of the author's well known book on the bioassay of vitamins has not changed greatly from the first. This is partly due to the fact that, except for outstanding deficiencies, the vitamins continue to be a controversial subject. This book does not give what physicians desire to know about the intrinsic value of vitamins *per se* to health maintenance and to disease prevention and cure. However, it does give valuable information about how the vitamin content of foods and other materials is established in order that physicians may have reliable products at their disposal. These procedures, of course, are only for those with expert skill and special facilities.

This vitamin expert has drawn extensively on her vast experience. Part I discusses the handling of animals and details of bioassay procedures for Vitamins A, B, C, D and E. The new material here is the international standard of reference for vitamin E, and a sample of vitamin D₂ which, it is stated, may soon replace the standard for vitamin D. Part II deals with the statistical methods of refining experimental data, determining the limits of error and thus the validity of results. New material on further mathematical refinement of data has been introduced here. It does seem, however, that the increasing physical and mental energies expended on statistical analysis of biological phenomena are out of proportion to those on devising crucial experiments which would give a better understanding of them. The author recognizes the limitations of statistics, for she states that nothing is really proved by statistical treatment of results. Contrary to the author's belief that statistical analysis is very simple, the mathematics involved is probably beyond the average medical student and physician. This, however, is sauce for the routine bioassayer, and the investigator, of vitamins, for whom this book has what it takes to do their jobs acceptably.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL METHODS OF TREATMENT IN PSYCHIATRY. By William Sargent (M.R.C.P., D.P.M.) and Eliot Slater (F.R.C.P., D.P.M.), with a Chapter on Treatment of the Epilepsies by Denis Hill (M.R.C.P., D.P.M.). Second Edition. Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1948. \$3.50.

This is not by any means a complete treatise on the numerous methods of somatic therapy in psychiatry. It is simply and directly written, the material well organized, the more important essentials justifiably emphasized, and is directed not so much at the experienced specialist (although he can find much of benefit to him), as at the general practitioner, student, and young clinician in psychiatry. The author's plea for more active treatment in the psychiatric wards and outpatient clinics of general hospitals should be heeded more generally.

While many psychiatrists believe in the practical value of the various somatic therapies in psychiatry and recognize that they produce beneficial effects with greater speed and greater certainty than older methods, not everyone shares the enthusiasm expressed in this volume. Much of the criticism levelled at the so-called "drastic therapies" is too generally